

## High School Movies: The Writing Assignment

Due Date:

### Option 1:

Compare and contrast your high school life to the high school life of **one of the characters** from *Ferris Bueller's Day Off*.

Pick several categories (social life, friends, parental relationships, personality, **etc.**) and compare the similarities and differences.

You need all the regular elements of an excellent essay: an attention grabber, a solid thesis, well-developed body paragraphs, and a clinching conclusion.

Be sure to be specific in your body paragraphs when doing your comparisons. Include **precise details from the film** and then the related facts from your own life.

### Option 2A:

What makes *Ferris Bueller's Day Off* a great high school or coming of age movie?

Pick essential characteristics from the film. Discuss how these elements are important and make the movie great. How does it fit or subvert the typical high school or coming of age genre? Use **specific examples from the movie** to prove your thesis.

**Option 2B:** Answer the same question for a film of your choice that also falls into the teen, high school, or coming of age genre. Same due dates apply.

### Option 3A-F:

Pick **one** of these thesis statements and write an argumentative essay that agrees or disagrees with the premise.

- A. Ferris Bueller's Day Off is the ultimate expression of the American idea of freedom.
- B. As a privileged young white man from an affluent home "rebellious" against the "injustices" of a wealthy suburban school, Ferris Bueller is the picture of entitlement.
- C. Tom and Katie Bueller love their children, but they don't understand either of them. At all.
- D. Ferris's sole mission is to help Cameron become more confident in the face of his father's cruelty and materialism.
- E. Cameron isn't afraid of his dad; he's afraid of the homicidal fury he'll unleash if he goes off on his dad.
- F. Cameron achieves freedom when he chooses to disregard his self-created problems.

Build an intro paragraph that finishes with one of these thesis statements **or** a variation of one.

For your body paragraphs, pick examples from the film that support your thesis. **Analyze and explain these examples** and how they connect.

Your paper should contain the regular elements of an excellent essay: an attention grabber, a solid thesis, well-developed body paragraphs, a clinching conclusion.

# Rubric for Film Essays

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

	Exceptional	Proficient	Approaching	Well Below
<b>CONTENT</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction with thesis</li> <li>• Ideas, analysis, &amp; argument</li> <li>• Support &amp; evidence</li> <li>• Conclusion</li> </ul>	<p>Engaging introduction that contains hook. Contains a strong, well defined thesis (last sentence of introductory paragraph!) Paper has direction</p> <p>Thesis well developed, interesting, clear, reasoned, insightful ideas. Ideas show critical thinking and analysis. Shows thorough knowledge of film topic, themes, and/or production values</p> <p>Detailed, accurate, Specific, convincing and appropriate examples/quotations from film. Fully developed throughout essay</p> <p>Stylishly and subtly returns to thesis. Extends main ideas, connects and comments on topic.</p>	<p>Coherent introduction contains some general background info. Clear thesis defined, provides direction for paper</p> <p>Thesis is clear and thoughtful. Some critical thinking and analysis. Shows knowledge of film topic, themes, or production values</p> <p>Sufficient, accurate examples from film. May not be fully developed throughout essay.</p> <p>Returns to thesis and summarizes main points and ideas</p>	<p>Intro is weak, doesn't give reader general background or hook. Thesis is not clearly stated, perfunctory, simple unclear.</p> <p>Thesis is simplistic, inadequately developed, lacking in relevance. Shows limited knowledge of film, theme, or production values</p> <p>Uneven, general, often brief Minimal examples used from film. Not fully developed throughout essay</p> <p>Summarizes previously stated information, effectively concludes but doesn't extend</p>	<p>Vague introduction, reader has little sense of what film is about. No clear thesis, incomplete</p> <p>Thesis is obvious, unsound, or inaccurate. No analysis Doesn't demonstrate knowledge of film, theme, or production values</p> <p>Vague, missing or inappropriate, Little or no examples from film used</p> <p>Absent, incomplete, Fails to conclude, adds nothing in many words</p>
<b>ORGANIZATION</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Follows Format of a good essay. Includes Topic Sentences and Transitions</li> </ul>	<p>Perfectly follows format of essay. Topic sentences clearly related to thesis and comprehensive. Fluid, engaging and varied transitions made between paragraphs</p>	<p>Follows format of essay. Topic sentences are related to thesis. Clear, functional "bridge" transitions made between paragraphs</p>	<p>Somewhat follows essay format. Topic sentences are a restatement of position, narrow or inaccurate, may not be appropriate for paragraph's content Awareness of transitions but seems mechanical or forced.</p>	<p>Doesn't follow format of essay. No topic sentences or not appropriate for paragraph's content. No clear connections between paragraphs</p>
<b>EXPRESSION</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sentence Structure</li> <li>• Vocabulary</li> <li>• Mechanics</li> </ul>	<p>Complete, varied, interesting, evident command of technique, style and grace</p> <p>Varied and sophisticated</p> <p>Contains minimal to no errors in conventions (grammar, punctuation, spelling, capitalization)</p>	<p>Complete and correct, Some style</p> <p>Effective, appropriate to task</p> <p>Contains few minor errors in conventions</p>	<p>Some variety, some errors present</p> <p>Adequate, uneven "Thesaurus syndrome"</p> <p>Contains errors that are distracting or cause confusion</p>	<p>Repetitious, fragments and run-on's frequent</p> <p>Limited, monotonous, inappropriate, uses lazy words</p> <p>Many convention errors which interfere with communication and/or meaning</p>
<b>RESOURCES</b>	<p>Works Cited complete and in proper format. Film is properly cited.</p>	<p>Works Cited is complete, with minor errors. Film is cited.</p>	<p>Works Cited is complete, not in proper format. Film is cited.</p>	<p>Works Cited is incomplete Film not cited.</p>